

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-30 – (canceled)

40. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method of using a flexible package, the flexible package comprising a package body defining an interior; a zipper closure comprising a first mating
- 5 profile and a second mating profile, each extending along ~~a first~~ an edge of the package body, and the zipper closure providing access to the interior; a slider device operably mounted on the zipper closure, the slider device interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a first direction and ~~[[for]]~~ disengaging the first mating profile from the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a second,
- 10 opposite direction, and a tamper-evident structure covering and encasing at least ~~partially~~ encasing a major portion of the zipper closure ~~[[;]]~~ but not encasing the slider, the tamper-evident structure presenting an abutment proximal to said slider, the abutment preventing said slider from movement in a direction disengaging said zipper closure profiles, the method comprising:
- (a) freeing the slider device to move along the closure by removing the tamper-
- 15 evident structure from the flexible package and thereby removing the abutment and unencasing the portion of the zipper closure encased by the tamper-evident structure; and

(b) moving the slider device in said second direction to disengage the first and second mating profiles, thereby providing access to the package interior.

41. (previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package comprises:

(a) removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness.

42. (previously presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness comprises:

(a) removing the tamper-evident structure at a perforation line.

Claims 43-47 – (canceled)

48. (currently amended) A method of using a flexible package, the flexible package comprising a package body defining an interior; a zipper closure extending along a first edge of the package body, the zipper closure comprising first and second mating profiles and providing access to the interior; a slider device mounted on the zipper closure, the slider device interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a first direction and disengaging the first mating profile from the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a second opposite direction; and a tamper-evident structure encasing at least a major [[first]] portion of the zipper closure [[,]] but not encasing the slider, the slider residing in and captured by an opening in the tamper-evident structure ~~defining an opening that provides access~~ to the slider device; thereby limiting the position of the slider along the zipper closure to the area

defined by said opening, wherein the method comprises:

(a) freeing the slider device to move along the closure by removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package thereby unencasing the portion of the zipper enclosure encased by the tamper-evident structure; and

15 (b) moving the slider device along the closure in [[said]] a second direction to disengage the first and second mating profiles, thereby providing access to the package interior.

49. (previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package comprises:

(a) removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness.

50. (previously presented) The method according to claim 49, wherein the step of removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness comprises:

(a) removing the tamper-evident structure at a perforation line.